Transportation and the Bureau of Land Management

Transportation

BLM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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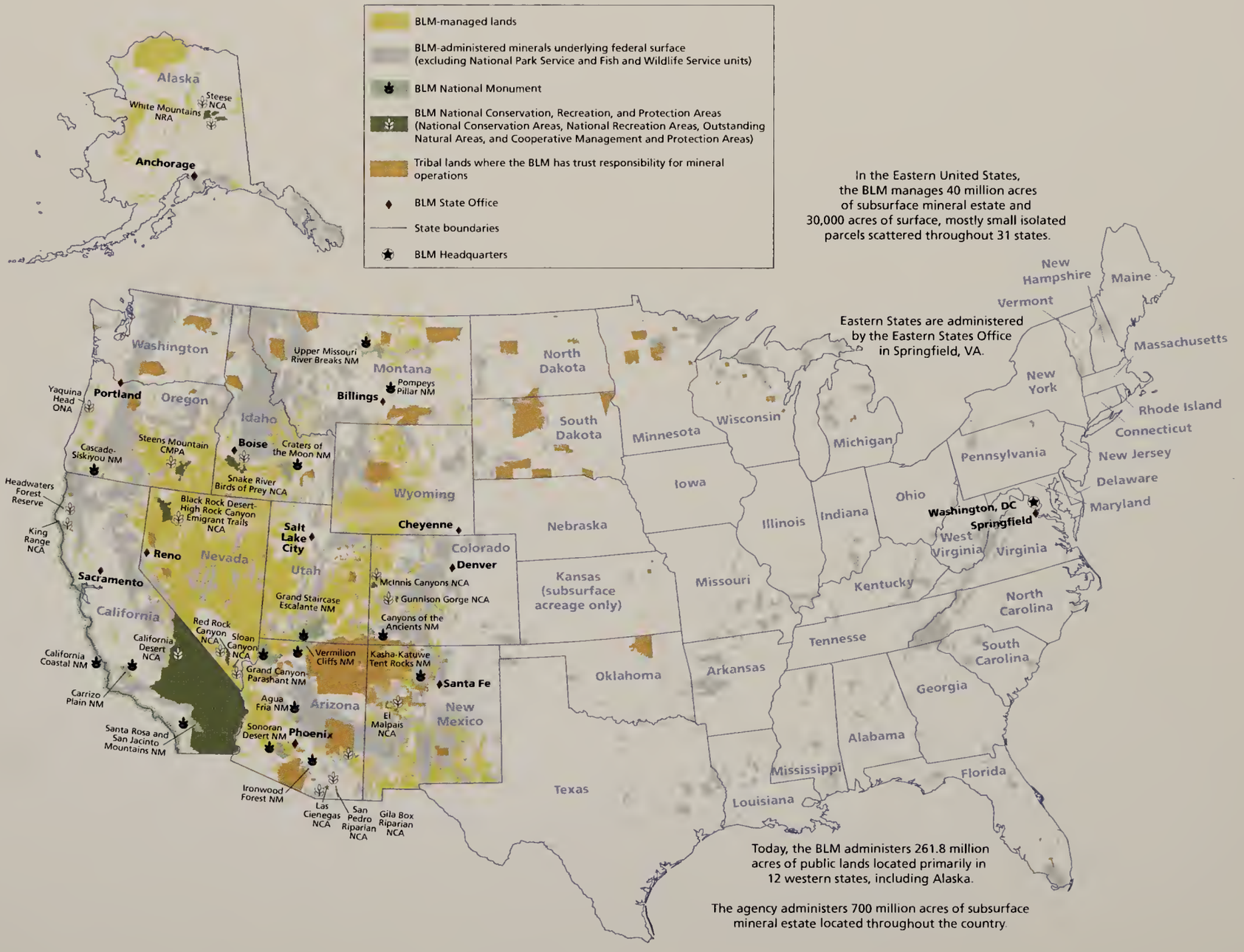

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Overview

BLM transportation

For over 60 years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been responsible for managing American public lands. Today, the BLM administers 258 million surface acres and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate, most of which lie within the 12 western states. These lands cover roughly 13 percent of the total area of the United States—an area greater than Texas, Oklahoma, and New England combined—and account for more than 40 percent of all federally managed land, making the BLM the single largest land holder in the country. These lands are used for recreation, resource harvesting, and energy production. As the American economy and population both grow, these activities are increasing.

Pivotal to the BLM's strategy for managing these lands is maintaining and improving upon the BLM's transportation system—which includes roads, bridges, trails, and related facilities—in a manner that enhances accessibility, connectivity, and safety, while at the same time addressing public needs, preserving ecological functions, and fostering economic development.

The BLM's transportation system

Roads and highways

The BLM has 76,088 miles of roads—one and a half times the mileage of the Interstate Highway System. Most are naturally surfaced; less than 20,000 miles are gravel roads, and less than 2,000 miles are paved roads. Nearly all were originally built for administrative purposes or resource harvesting, but many are now being used for recreation, which is increasing as demographics change and travel demand grows.

Another component is the Land Management Highway System (LMHS), which identifies the state and county maintained public roads and bridges that serve as critical connectors to the BLM transportation system, and to BLM public lands. The LMHS enables the BLM to partner with these respective state and county agencies in comprehensive transportation management, to best serve the traveling public.

The National Back Country Byway program was developed by the BLM to complement the National Scenic Byways program. As an integral part of the larger Scenic Byway system, Back Country Byways show enthusiasts the best the West has to offer in a trip off the beaten path. Most of these byways are native surface or gravel base roads tracing across vast stretches of land. The BLM recognizes 55 designated National Back Country Byways, totaling 2,952 miles in eleven states.

Bridges

The BLM is responsible for managing 856 bridges, providing recreational and administrative access to facilities, trails (including the National Trails System), and National Back Country Byways. The condition of these bridges affects visitor and employee safety as well as emergency response time. As with its roads, the BLM's bridges range in type, from single-lane wooden river crossings and foot bridges for trail access to heavy-duty Interstate-type steel truss bridges.

Trails

The BLM manages 18,420 miles of historic, scenic, and recreational trails, in addition to thousands of miles of multiple-use trails. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, and encourage public access. Nearly 6,000 miles are congressionally designated national scenic and national historic trails under the National Trails System Act of 1968. These trails are the backbone of the National Trails System, which also includes National Recreation Trails and rail-trail authorities. This mileage includes 13 long-distance trails, 3 national scenic trails totaling 624 miles, and 10 national historic trails totaling 5,355 miles. The BLM manages more miles of national historic trails on-the-ground than any other agency.

The importance of the BLM transportation system

A well-functioning transportation system is essential for the resource harvesting, energy production, and recreation activities that take place on BLM lands. In addition to allowing the BLM to achieve its agency goals—sustaining the health, diversity, and economic vitality of our public lands—transportation enables ongoing contributions to the regional and national economies.

- The annual economic impact of energy and mineral production on the public lands amounts to nearly $25 billion.
- In 2006, nearly 70 million visitor-days were spent on BLM lands: camping, picnicking, landscape and wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking and backpacking, boating, bicycling, and engaging in motorized recreation.
- Recreational activities on BLM lands generate $2.4 billion in annual sales for adjacent communities, nearly 34,000 jobs, and over $883 million in personal income.
- The BLM's roads, bridges, and trails provide critical access for wildfire mitigation strategies and escape routes for fire crews and the general public. With the increase in the American population, the increase in demand for energy, the growth in recreational activities, and ongoing fire risks, it is expected that the BLM's transportation system will become even more important over time.

Transportation challenges and issues

- Maintaining the BLM's vast transportation system is difficult, and requires both sound planning and substantial investment. The BLM works with state, county, and local partners, as well as the Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP), to plan for, fund, and administer its roads, bridges, trails, and other transportation facilities.
- Demands on BLM lands, and on the BLM transportation system, will increase as the American population continues to grow.
- Extensive unmanaged cross-country travel on "open" or unrestricted lands can impact vegetation, soils, air and water quality. As a result, comprehensive transportation management has become a greater priority to the BLM.
- There is a growing interest in alternative transportation solutions on BLM-managed lands, such as bus shuttles, possibly using clean-fuels technology.

Alaska BLM

BLM Transportation in Alaska

- Miles of Roads: **34**
- Miles of Trails: **2,444**
- Number of Bridges: **16**
- **83.5 million acres** of surface land
- **237 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **1.2 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **1.1 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$9.7 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$334,000**

BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Alaska)

- Roads: **$151,104**
- Bridges: **$273,025**
- Trails: **$1,166,013**
- Total: **$1,590,142**

Public Land Treasures in Alaska under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **2 areas, 2.2 million acres**
- Cultural Resources: **123 properties, 4,903 acres**
- Wild, Scenic Rivers: **6 rivers, 952 miles, 609,280 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **1 trail, 418 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 27 miles**

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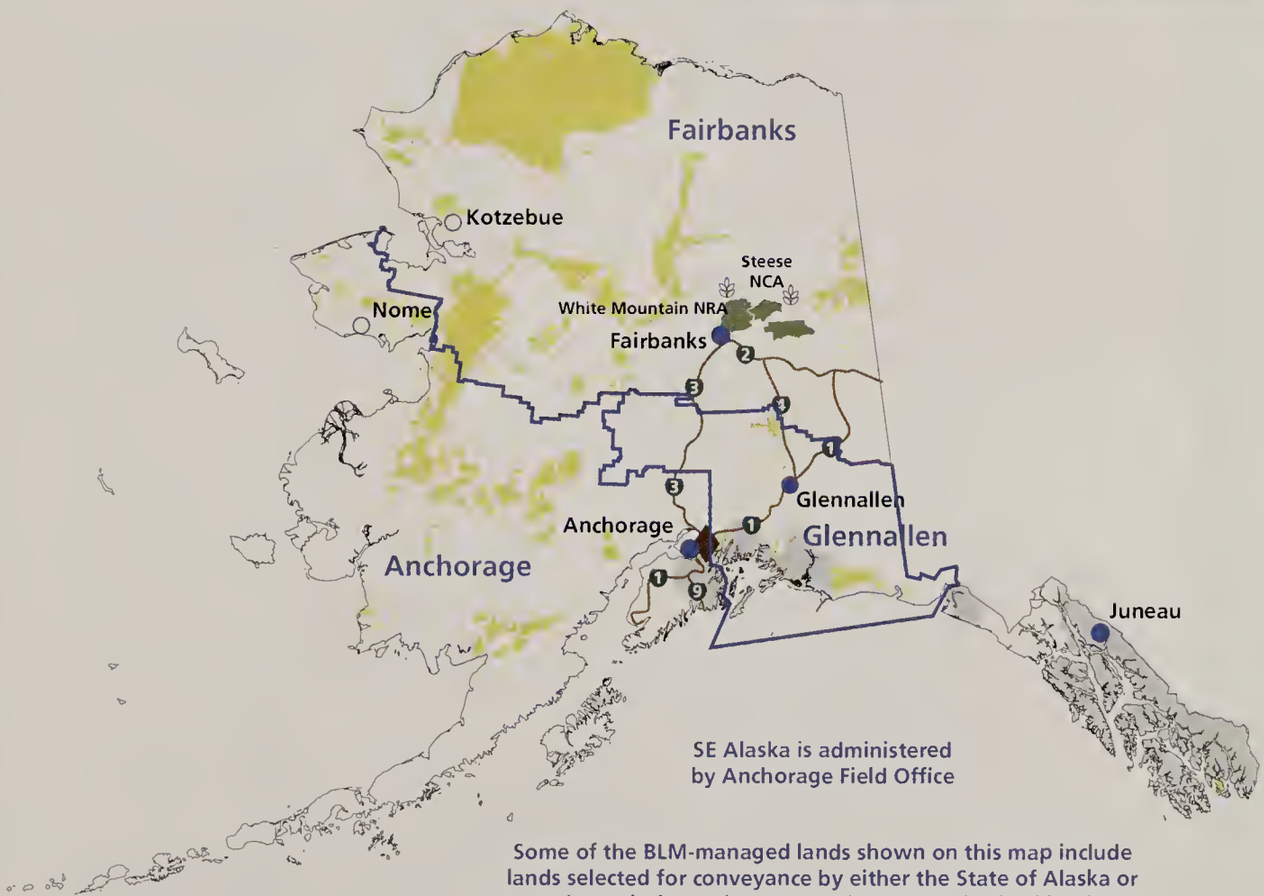
Historic Trail



Some of the BLM-managed lands shown on this map include lands selected for conveyance by either the State of Alaska or various Alaska Native corporations, as authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other legislation.

BLM-managed lands

BLM-administered minerals underlying federal surface (excluding National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service units)

BLM National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas (National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, and Cooperative Management and Protection Areas)

BLM State Office

BLM Field Offices

BLM Field Stations

BLM Field Office boundaries

Major highways

Arizona BLM

BLM Transportation in Arizona

- Miles of Roads: **1,787**
- Miles of Trails: **755**
- Number of Bridges: **2**
- **12.2 million acres** of surface land
- **35.8 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **20.7 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **14 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$6.9 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2004: **$1.4 million**

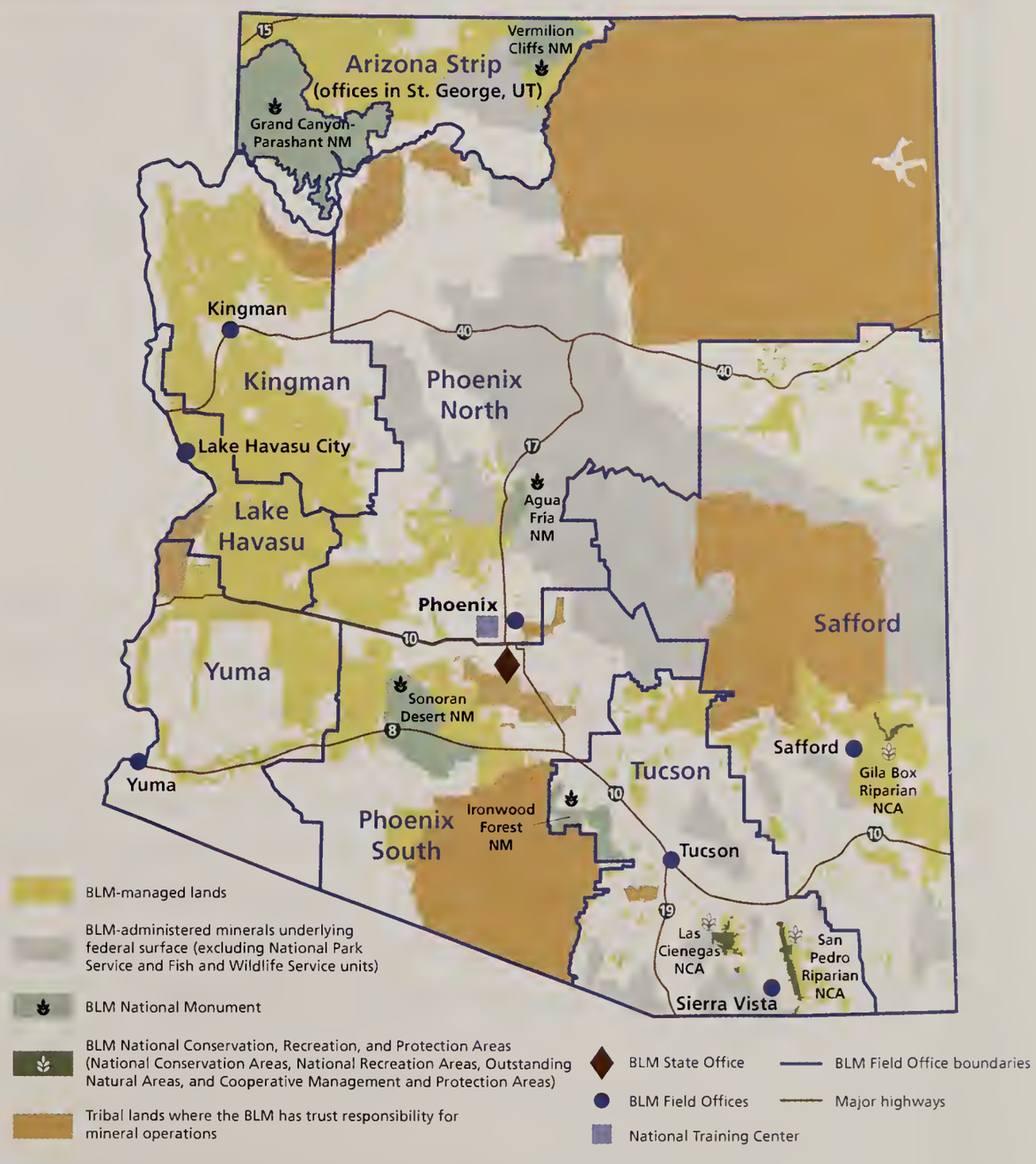
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Arizona)

- Roads: **$910,872**
- Bridges: **$320**
- Trails: **$282,768**
- Total: **$1,193,960**

Public Land Treasures in Arizona under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **5 monuments, 1.8 million acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **3 areas, 112,542 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **234 properties, 27,744 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **47 areas, 1.4 million acres**
- National Historic Trails: **2 trails, 89 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 1 mile**
- National Byways: **3 Byways, 74 miles**

A road runs through Arizona's BLM lands



California BLM

BLM Transportation in California

- Miles of Roads: **4,952**
- Miles of Trails: **4,517**
- Number of Bridges: **239**
- **15.2 million acres** of surface land
- **47.5 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **0.6 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **16.5 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$8.8 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$3.5 million**

BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (California)

- Roads: **$1,471,949**
- Bridges: **$53,036**
- Trails: **$1,269,626**
- Total: **$2,794,611**

Public Land Treasures in California under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **3 monuments, 291,390 acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **2 areas, 10.7 million acres**
- Cultural Resources: **527 properties, 32,323 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **76 areas, 3.5 million acres**
- Wild, Scenic Rivers: **6 rivers, 78 miles, 24,800 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **3 trails, 423 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **8 trails, 90 miles**
- National Byways: **7 Byways, 290 miles**

Mountain biking on
Fredunyeer Peak Road

Colorado BLM

BLM Transportation in Colorado

- Miles of Roads: **4,090**
- Miles of Trails: **1,204**
- Number of Bridges: **27**
- **8.3 million acres** of surface land
- **29.0 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **0.8 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **4.7 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$31.6 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$505,000**

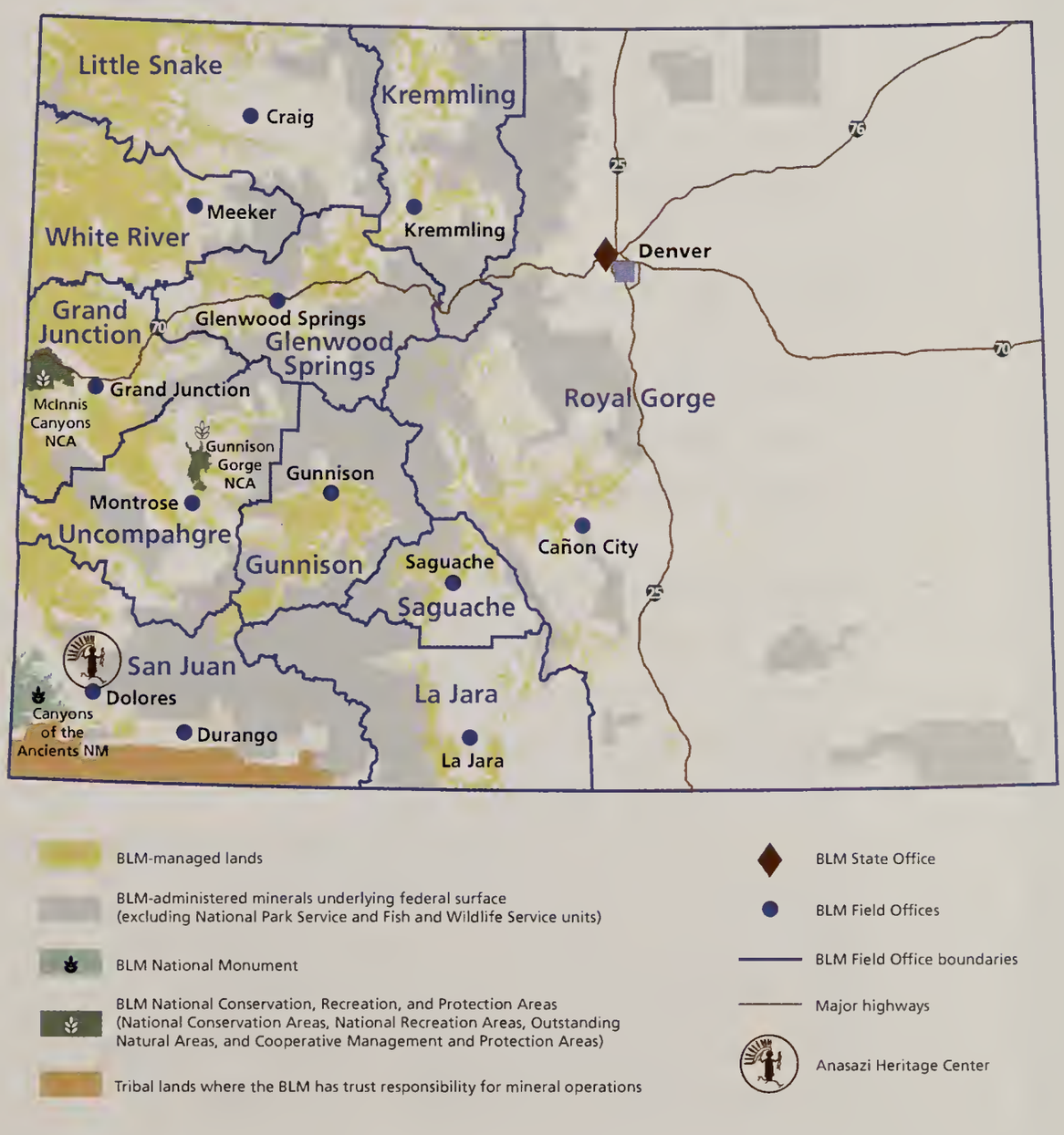
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Colorado)

- Roads: **$1,323,672**
- Bridges: **$112,567**
- Trails: **$373,007**
- Total: **$1,809,246**

Public Land Treasures in Colorado under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **1 monument, 163,892 acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **2 areas, 185,144 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **1,376 properties, 64,598 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **4 areas, 139,524 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **1 trail, 85 miles**
- National Scenic Trails: **1 trail, 1 mile**
- National Byways: **2 Byways, 194 miles**

Sheep drive on Shelf Road along the Gold Belt National Back Country Byway



Idaho BLM

BLM Transportation in Idaho

- Miles of Roads: **8,377**
- Miles of Trails: **3,946**
- Number of Bridges: **59**
- **11.6 million acres** of surface land
- **36.5 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **0.6 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **4.6 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$4.6 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$676,000**

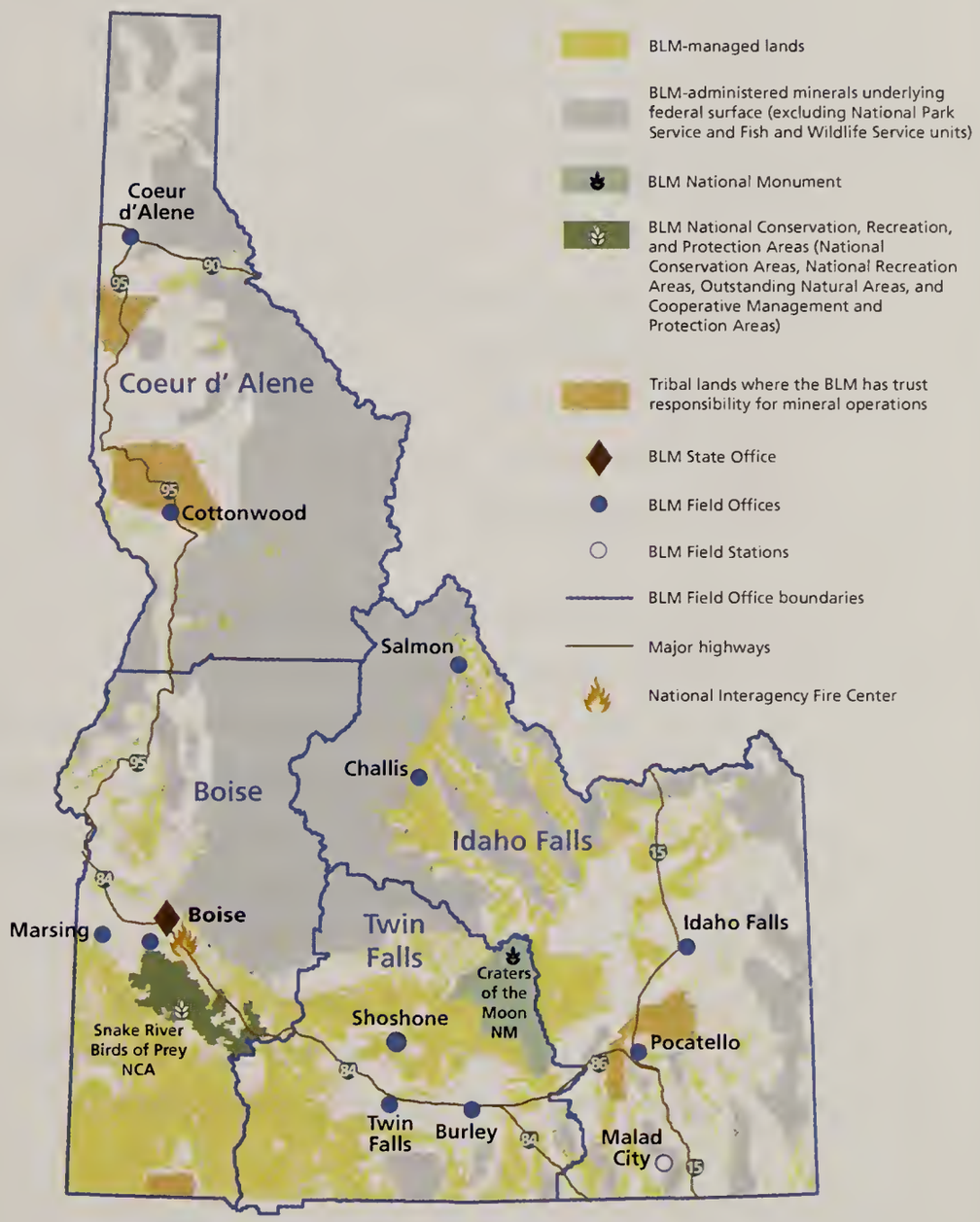
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Idaho)

- Roads: **$1,304,256**
- Bridges: **$126,287**
- Trails: **$776,373**
- Total: **$2,209,916**

Public Land Treasures in Idaho under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **1 monument, 274,800 acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **1 area, 484,034 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **474 properties, 43,586 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **1 area, 802 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **4 trails, 439 miles**
- National Scenic Trails: **1 trail, 13 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **6 trails, 38 miles**
- National Byways: **2 Byways, 142 miles**

The Oregon Trail winds through the Snake River District



Montana BLM (incl. ND, SD)

BLM Transportation in MT, ND, SD

- Miles of Roads: **3,256**
- Miles of Trails: **289**
- Number of Bridges: **25**
- **8.3 million acres** of surface land
- **47.1 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **11.4 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **3.1 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$7.2 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$314,000**

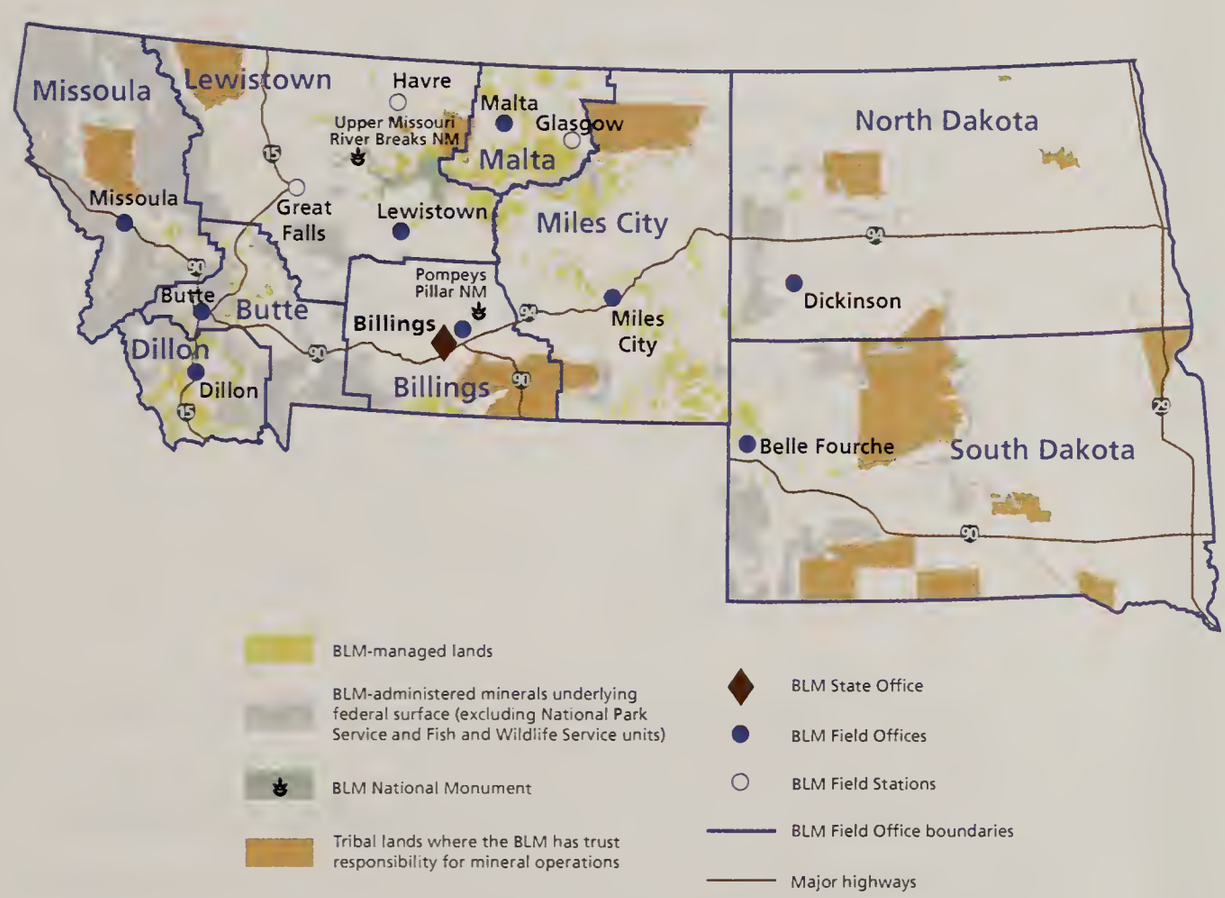
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (MT, ND, SD)

- Roads: **$2,973,061**
- Bridges: **$60,238**
- Trails: **$351,064**
- Total: **$3,384,363**

Public Land Treasures in MT, ND, SD under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **2 monuments, 375,027 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **145 properties, 29,703 acres**
- Wild, Scenic Rivers: **1 river, 149 miles, 89,300 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **1 area, 6,000 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **2 trails, 347 miles**
- National Scenic Trails: **1 trail, 11 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **3 trails, 51 miles**
- National Byways: **4 Byways, 248 miles**

Log Gulch Campground
at Holter Lake



New Mexico BLM (incl. OK, TX, KS)

BLM Transportation in New Mexico (including Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas)

- Miles of Roads: **5,819**
- Miles of Trails: **134**
- Number of Bridges: **0**
- **13.5 million acres** of surface land
- **43.6 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **9.5 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **1.8 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$8.3 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$368,000**

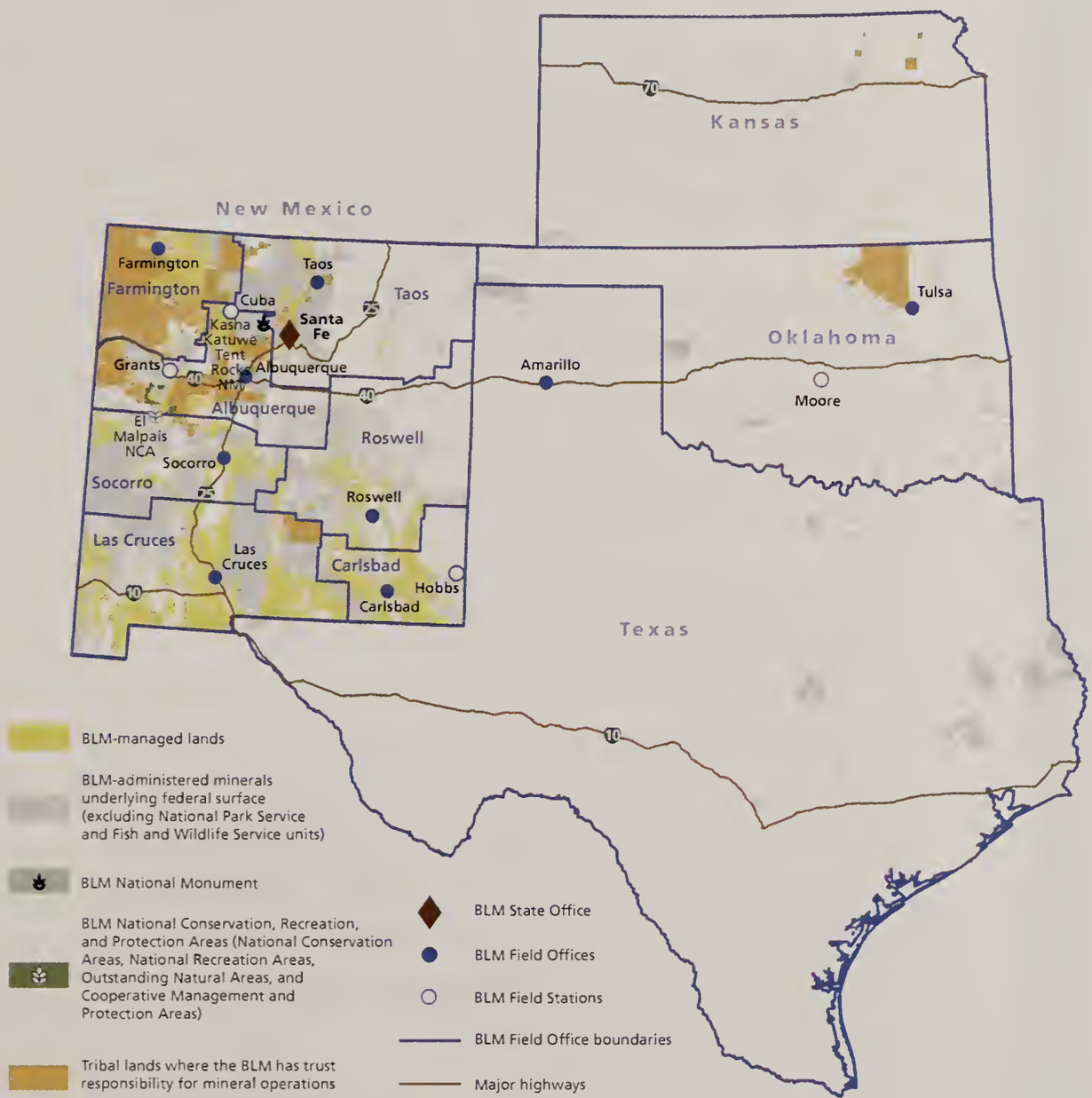
2006 Transportation Spending (NM, OK, TX, KS)

- Roads: **$1,061,307**
- Bridges: **$206**
- Trails: **$275,250**
- Total: **$1,336,763**

Public Land Treasures in NM, OK, TX, KS under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **1 monument, 4,124 acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **1 area, 227,100 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **891 properties, 44,996 acres**
- Wild, Scenic Rivers: **2 rivers, 71 miles, 22,720 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **4 areas, 150,579 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **1 trail, 172 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 27 miles**
- National Byways: **5 Byways, 174 miles**

The Taos Gorge Bridge spans the Rio Grande



Nevada BLM

BLM Transportation in Nevada

- Miles of Roads: **10,288**
- Miles of Trails: **431**
- Number of Bridges: **11**
- **47.8 million acres** of surface land
- **58.7 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **1.2 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **7.1 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$881.3 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$3.3 million**

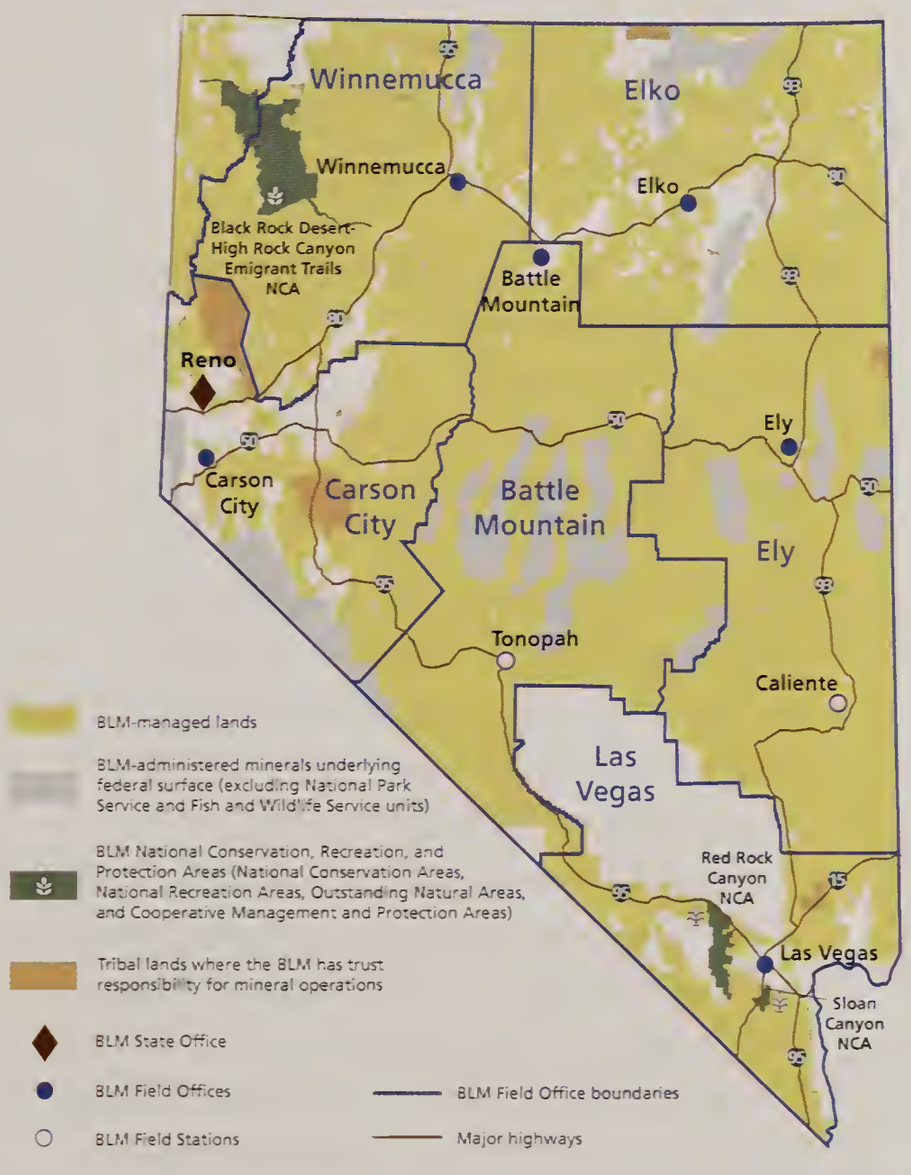
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Nevada)

- Roads: **$3,323,888**
- Bridges: **$18,277**
- Trails: **$44,728**
- Total: **$3,386,893**

Public Land Treasures in Nevada under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **3 areas, 1.0 million acres**
- Cultural Resources: **1,170 properties, 115,535 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **38 areas, 1.8 million acres**
- National Historic Trails: **3 trails, 1,065 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 1 mile**
- National Byways: **10 Byways, 438 miles**

Rock formations guard the entrance to Blue Mass Canyon



Oregon BLM (incl. WA)

BLM Transportation in OR and WA

- Miles of Roads: **23,981**
- Miles of Trails: **1,202**
- Number of Bridges: **429**
- **16.5 million acres** of surface land
- **46.4 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **3.4 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **6.8 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$34.6 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$2.1 million**

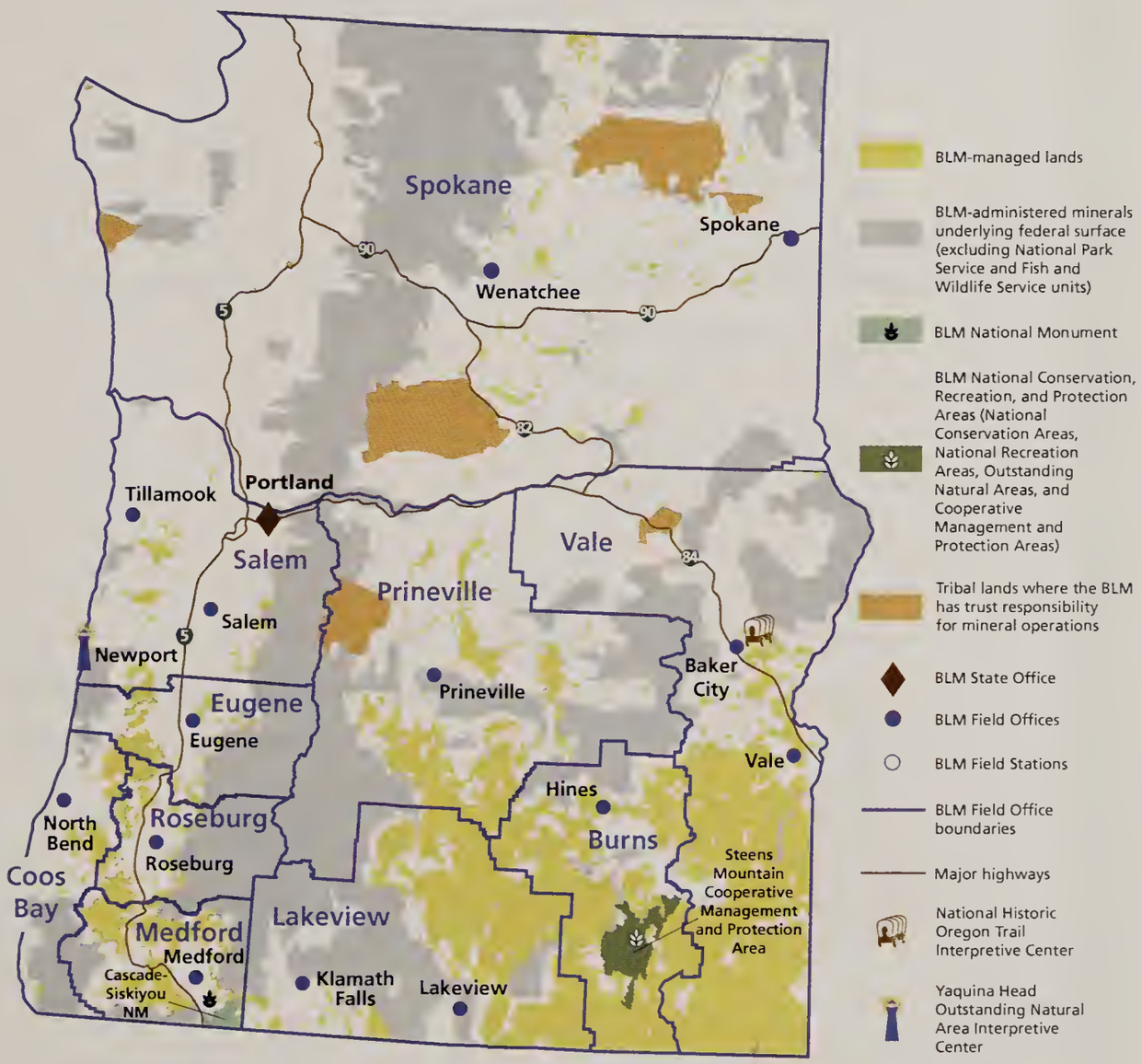
BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Oregon)

- Roads: **$18,647,407**
- Bridges: **$647,599**
- Trails: **$834,390**
- Total: **$20,129,396**

Public Land Treasures in Oregon and Washington under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **1 monument, 52,947 acres**
- National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas: **2 areas, 428,256 acres**
- Cultural Resources: **537 properties, 64,955 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **5 areas, 193,863 acres**
- Wild, Scenic, Recreation Rivers: **23 Rivers, 597 miles, 191,104 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **2 trails, 24 miles**
- National Scenic Trails: **1 trail, 42 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **3 trails, 201 miles**
- National Byways: **14 Byways, 813 miles**

Two track road running through Willow Creek Wilderness Study Area



Utah BLM

BLM Transportation in Utah

- Miles of Roads: **9,517**
- Miles of Trails: **3,424**
- Number of Bridges: **14**
- **22.8 million acres** of surface land
- **35.2 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **2.3 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **8 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$5.1 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections, 2006: **$2.5 million**

BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Utah)

- Roads: **$652,355**
- Bridges: **$23,827**
- Trails: **$215,307**
- Total: **$891,489**

Public Land Treasures in Utah under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- National Monuments: **1 monument,1.9 million acres**
- Cultural Resources: **1,165 properties, 61,306 acres**
- Wilderness Areas: **4 areas, 129,120 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **3 trails, 569 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 12 miles**
- National Byways: **6 Byways, 432 miles**

Petroglyphs adorn the sandstone cliffs along a BLM road

Wyoming BLM (incl. NE)

BLM Transportation in WY, NE

- Miles of Roads: **3,987**
- Miles of Trails: **66**
- Number of Bridges: **34**
- **18.4 million acres** of surface land
- **42.3 million acres** of subsurface mineral estate (incl. surface acreage)
- **2 million acres** of tribal lands where BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
- Recreation Visitor Days in 2006: **2.3 million**
- Federal Collections from BLM-Managed Lands and Minerals in 2006: **$7.3 million**
- Recreation Fee Program Collections in 2006: **$204,000**

BLM 2006 Transportation Spending (Wyoming)

- Roads: **$1,660,601**
- Bridges: **$78,034**
- Trails: **$28,415**
- Total: **$1,767,050**

Public Land Treasures in Wyoming and Nebraska under BLM Stewardship as of 2006

- Cultural Resources: **2,140 properties, 216,444 acres**
- National Historic Trails: **5 trails, 1,262 miles**
- National Scenic Trails: **1 trail, 180 miles**
- National Recreation Trails: **1 trail, 2 miles**
- National Byways: **3 Byways, 197 miles**

Mountain bikers traverse the Continental Divide

The Bureau of Land Management was established in 1946 and is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. We manage public lands, mostly in the 12 Western states, that encompass 258 million acres—an area equivalent to the size of Texas and New England combined—and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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